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His indictment of Porfirio Diaz is severe. The former president, avers Mr. Baerlein, systematically concealed the truth and suppressed the men who knew him too well. As long as possible his partisans, native and foreign, endeavored to keep the world in ignorance of real conditions in Mexico. However, opposition to the old régime gathered and strengthened, and the revolution which finally swept all before it would have come sooner if Mexicans had not been so "long-suffering and contradictory." The sufficing causes that led to the outbreak were principally these: flagrant abuses of the legal system; Don Porfirio's habit of ignoring the semi-independence of the states, while he inflicted upon them despots cruder and crueller than himself; and finally the unsatisfactory economic condition of the whole Republic. A chapter upon Yucatan gives concrete instances of a state of affairs worse than may be readily imagined. For the most part the author is cautious of sweeping statements, and lets particulars stand for themselves. He succeeds in making us feel, however, that sweeping conclusions might be all too easily rendered convincing if one were disposed to rely upon all sorts of information. No one, he says in effect, can prove certain things about Mexico with mathematical certainty—but here is this case and that, sifted out of much material of the same sort.

The book is unduly long; it reads as if it had been written, in the first instance, anyhow and anywhere, and afterward padded rather than blue-penciled. The Kiplingesque chapter upon "Diaz at the Door of Hell" is a rather sad affair, and there are other flights of rhetoric that could well be spared. Nevertheless, faulty but forceful in style, the narrative makes its impression. Mr. Baerlein keeps pounding away at the myth built up round Porfirio Diaz until little is left of it. "At the start," he fairly and once for all admits, "the methods of Diaz were justified; the country was in chaos, and the treasury was bare, the Constitution could not be regarded, and in fact one does not censure, one praises him, for his un-English statesmanship. A system tantamount to martial law was still applied to a community which had progressed; and in the last ten or a dozen years the autocrat was the center of a most corrupt and most oppressive oligarchy." The result of reading this book will be a more intelligent sympathy with Mexico and an increased disinclination to accept the "necessary evil" plea of her would-be dictators. After all, there are less than five hundred pages in the portentously thick volume, and in these pages there is enough of real interest to warrant an earnest effort to read them through.

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THE FLOWERY REPUBLIC. By FREDERICK McCORMICK. New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1913.

Mr. McCormick is a war correspondent, and this is a war correspondent's book—the book of a man who has been in close touch with the events he describes. The author has had plenty of opportunity for observation, time for reflection, evidenced by shrewd comment, but neither time nor material for the sort of philosophical and thoroughly informed discussion of Chinese events and character that we would like, but perhaps are none too likely to get from any source.

The story is generally well told—despite a tendency to lapse into the

style of a mere diary (event, hearsay, or other item of news being recorded by short paragraphs for pages at a time), and despite a tendency, of contrary effect, toward quoting at unnecessary length documents to which the writer had access. The miscellaneous character of the whole, the insufficiency of the commentary altogether to interpret the facts, and the inclusion of matters of no great apparent significance—all this is excusable considering the chaotic and somewhat mysterious nature of the events with which Mr. McCormick has to deal. His book is not shapely, but it is interesting. The day-to-day and week-to-week record of events is varied and enlivened by bits of personal experience or casual dialogue, and the general stream of the narrative is on the whole broad enough and deep enough to give one a sense of the big movement.

Formal characterization of the chief figures in the revolution is not attempted as a matter of duty, and many of the strange Chinese names remain to us merely names indeed. Yet the personalities of Yuan Shih-Kai and Sun Yat Sen come out in the end strongly. It is a little surprising that we should get such impressions of men whose performances, so far as the narrative makes them plain, seem to consist so largely in self-restraint and in biding their time. Perhaps the effect is due in part to the contrast they make with the purely Oriental activities of those governors and generals who merely spar for time and then run away, and of the Manchu officials whose frantic efforts to resign are disallowed by the Court. There is color, and there are striking touches of character in the book—enough to repay reading apart from the quest for information. Yuan Shih-Kai's official "rheumatism of the leg" and the use he made of it are things to be remembered with joy, nor will one soon forget the incidental and apparently quite irrelevant picture of old General Chiang Kuei-ti "with his cheery face and bent shoulders," who in a time of serious disorder "creeps jauntily into his tight little carriage, and with a very small guard and a headsman following on behind, goes out into the city." The General's stock remark, "You have me," seems an ironic comment on the whole situation.

Altogether *The Flowery Republic* gives an apparently quite complete and certainly very detailed account of the Chinese revolution from the revolt in Szechuan in August, 1911, to the Nanking assembly's transfer of the seat of government to Peking in April, 1912. Of especial interest is the account of the financial embarrassments of the provisional government, of which Sun Yat Sen was the head, which, until an understanding had been reached with Yuan Shih-Kai, could obtain no recognition except from Japan, from which it was afraid to accept it. Our own government, it seems, was committed to the Japanese Cabinet, while the Chinese view was that even that Cabinet was not privy to the plans of the Elder Statesmen. Significant, too, is the chapter upon the present state of China, which follows a moderate and reasonable defense of the Manchu dynasty. "The unrest of China's population," writes Mr. McCormick, "is the greatest proof of China's growth and prosperity. At the zenith of her power she confronts those who have replaced the Manchus. It is obvious that the national antagonism must now be concentrated upon the outsider, whether that outsider is personified in one nation or in all the great powers together. The Revolution has but begun. China is careering onward to her fate, subject per-

haps alone to that Providence which 'clears the grounding berg and steers the grinding floe.' What will China do when she looks in the glass—when she discovers that the thing ailing her is that she is, not Manchu, but Chinese; when she has nowhere to look but to herself, with no longer a scapegoat upon which to visit her own sins?"

Giving the impression of a book somewhat hastily thrown together, *The Flowery Republic*, nevertheless, makes us feel the actuality of events in China, and gives us as a total result a more closely human view than most of us have had of the Chinese people.

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JOURNAL OF JASPER DANKHAERTS. Edited by BARTLETT BURLEIGH JAMES, B.D., PH.D., AND J. FRANKLIN JAMESON, PH.D., LL.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913.

This volume in the series *Original Narratives of Early American History* is of value to students of history, and has a degree of curious interest for the general reader. Dankhaerts and Sluyters—emissaries of the rather obscure religious sect of Labadists, at that time domiciled in Holland, visited this country during the years 1679-1680, with a view to finding lands suitable for their community. They remained for a considerable time in New York, making excursions into the surrounding regions, visiting Boston, and coming into contact with people of all sorts. Later they journeyed to the South River (the Delaware) and obtained from Augustine Herrman a promise of lands forming part of his vast estate. For those who love authentic details of the past, here is a feast indeed. It is not pretended that Dankhaerts had the qualities of a Pepys or a Woolman, but he observed and recorded with industry and conscientious care. His judgments of persons are, to be sure, somewhat biased by his religious opinions, and his estimate, for instance, of the holiness of the Boston church-goers is probably not to be accepted without a grain of salt. To his mind, Quakers were merely hypocritical nuisances, and the one man in a thousand whom he found in the new country seems to have been John Eliot, the "Apostle to the Indians." His topographical descriptions are of especial interest, and now and then his droning narrative gives us pictures almost vivid, such as the brief glimpse of Harvard College.

The book has been edited with thorough scholarship. Nearly every person mentioned by Dankhaerts is identified in the notes and almost as many particulars are given about each as would serve for a paragraph in *Who's Who*. In many cases inaccuracies of the diarist are corrected, and no obscurities have been left unclarified.

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VOICES OF TO-MORROW: CRITICAL STUDIES OF THE NEW SPIRIT IN LITERATURE. By EDWIN BJÖRKMAN. New York and London: Mitchell Kennerley, 1913.

Among books that bear the marks of a practised hand and betoken sound knowledge, far too many are mere collections of occasional papers, slightly connected in purpose and varying in value. Of such books Edwin Björkman's *Voices of To-morrow* is a rather favorable example. The